

Tzemach Tzedek Ohr HaTorah Parshas Re'eh Chelek Vov - אַחַרִי ה' אֱלֹקִיכָם חֵלְכוֹ

Introduction

This discourse by the Tzemach Tzedek, the third Rebbe of Chabad (1789–1866), is a richly layered exposition on the verse: "אַהַבִי ה' אֱלֹבֵיכֶם תֵּלֵכוּ" (Devarim 13:5) and its surrounding directives. Delivered within the context of Elul and the High Holidays, the maamar explores the six-part progression in Divine service: walking after Hashem, fearing Him, guarding His mitzvos, listening to His voice, serving Him, and cleaving to Him. Through a blend of Kabbalistic structure and practical avodah, the discourse maps these stages onto both the calendar of Elul–Tishrei and the inner structure of the soul's relationship with Hashem.

סד"ר ש"ק פ' ראה

The regular weekly Torah reading order for Shabbos Kodesh, Parshas Re'eh.

After Hashem your G-d you shall walk, and Him you shall fear, and His commandments you shall guard, and to His voice you shall listen, and Him you shall serve, and to Him you shall cleave—behold, it enumerates here six things: you shall walk, you shall fear, you shall guard, you shall listen, you shall serve, you shall cleave.

אַחֲרֵי ה' אֱלֹקֵיכֶם תַּלֵכוּ וְאֹתוֹ תִירָאוּ וְאֶת מִצְּוֹתִיו תִּשְׁמֹרוּ וּבְקֹלוֹ תִשְׁמָעוּ וְאֹתוֹ תַעֲבֹדוּ וּבוֹ תִדְבָּקוּן, הָנֵּה מוֹנֶה בְּכָאן שִׁשָּׁה דְבָרִים, תֵּלֵכוּ, תִּירָאוּ תִּשְׁמְרוּ, תִּשְׁמֵעוּ, תַּעַבִדוּ, תִּדְבַּקוּן

And behold, in the explanation of "After Hashem you shall walk," there are three interpretations: in the Gemara, in the Midrash, and in the Yalkut.

וְהָנֵּה בָּפֵּרוּשׁ אַחֲרֵי ה' תַּלֵכוּ יֵשׁ ג' פֵּרוּשִׁים, בַּגְּמֶ' וּבַמָּדְרָשׁ וּבַיָּלְקוּט.

For behold (in the Gemara, Sotah): "After Hashem you shall walk"—is it possible to walk after the Holy One, blessed be He? Rather, walk after His traits: just as He clothes the naked, so you shall do; just as He is gracious, so you shall be gracious; just as He is merciful, so you shall be merciful.

כִּי הַנֵּה (בַּגְּמֶ' סוֹטָה) אַחֲרֵי ה' תֵּלֵכוּ וְכִי אֶפְּשָׁר לָלֶכֶת אַחַר הַקּב"ה, אֶלָּא הָלוֹף אַחַר מִדּוֹתִיו מָה הוּא מַלְבִּישׁ עֲרוּמִים אַף אַתָּה מ"ע, מָה הוּא חַנּוּן אַף אַתַּה חַנּוּן מַה הוּא רַחוּם אַף אַתַּה רַחוּם.

And behold, in the Midrash (Parshas Kedoshim) it says on the verse "After Hashem you shall walk": is it possible to walk after Him, the One of whom it is written "Your way and Your path is in great waters"? How is it possible to walk after Him? Rather, "I did not engage in anything but planting at first," as it is written, "And Hashem planted a garden in Eden from the beginning." So you, too, shall engage only in planting first, as it is written, "And when you come to the land and you shall plant every food tree."

וְהָנֵּה בְּמִדְרָ"שׁ פּ' קְדוֹשִׁים אוֹמֵר עַל פָּסוּק אַחֲרֵי ה'
תַּלֵכוּ וְכִי אֶפְשָׁר לָלֶכֶת אַחֲרָיו אוֹתוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בּוֹ דַּרְכְּדְּ
וּשְׁבִילְדּ בְּמַיִם רַבִּים, אֵידּ אָפְשָׁר לָלֶכֶת אַחַרָיו אָלָּא
מָה אֲנִי לֹא נִתְעַסַּקְתִּי אֶלָּא בְּמַשָּע תְּחִלָּה כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב
וַיִּיטַע ה' אֱלֹקִים גַּן בְּעֵדָן מִקֶּדֶם אַף אַתֶּם לֹא תִּתְעַסְקוּ
אָלָא בְּמַשָּע תְּחִלָּה כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב וְכִי תָבוֹאוּ אֶל הָאָרֶץ
וּנְטַעְתַּם כַּל עֵץ מַאֲכַל
וּנִטְעָתַם כַּל עֵץ מַאֲכַל.

הָנֵה מִכֶּל מָקוֹם לֹא הַכֹּל אֶפְשָׁר לָבוֹא לִבְחִינַת פָּנִים,

וְלָכֵן צָרִיךְ הָאָדָם לְהַחֲזִיק עַצְמוֹ בִּבְחִינַת אָחוֹר.

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And behold, it needs to be understood: what does planting accomplish to fulfill "After Hashem you shall walk"?	וְהָבֵּה צָרִיךְ לוֹמַר מָהוּ אָם יִתְעַסְקוּ בְּמַטָּע מַה יְקַיְּמוּ בָּזֶה אַחֲרֵי ה' תֵּלֵכוּ.
And in the Yalkut, it explains on "After Hashem you shall walk": at the time Moshe said to Bnei Yisrael, "After Hashem you shall walk," they said to him: how is it possible to walk after Hashem? And he said to them: "All the paths of Hashem are kindness and truth"—and truth is nothing but Torah.	ְהָבֵּה בַּיָּלְקוּט פֵּירֵשׁ עַל אַחֲרֵי ה' תֵּלֵכוּ בְּשָׁעָה שֶׁאָמַר משֶׁה לְבְנֵי יִשְּׂרָאֵל אַחֲרֵי ה' תֵּלֵכוּ אָמְרוּ לוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵידְּ אֶפְשָׁר לָלֶכֶת אַחַר הַקּב"ה, וְאָמַר לָהֶם כָּל אָרְחוֹת ה' חָסֶד וָאֱמֶת אֵין אֱמֶת אֶלָּא תּוֹ'.
Thus, there are three interpretations in "After Hashem you shall walk": to walk after His attributes, planting, and that all His ways are kindness and truth.	נִמְצָא שֶׁיֵשׁ ג' פַּרוּשִׁים בְּאַחֲרֵי ה' הֵלֵכוּ הַלוֹךְ אַחַר מִדּוֹתָיו וּמַטָּע וְכָל אָרְחוֹת ה' חָסֶד וָאֱמֶת.
And to understand all this, it is necessary to explain the phrase "After Hashem you shall walk."	וּלְהָבִין כָּל זֶה הָנֵּה צָרִיךְ לוֹמֵר פֵּירוּשׁ אַחֲרֵי ה' תַּלֵכוּ
For behold, a person must hold himself as being in the aspect of "behind." For behold, by the High Priest there was the Choshen and the Ephod. And behold, in the Ephod there were two stones, and on them were engraved the names of the tribes of Bnei Yisrael, as it says: "Six of their names on one stone and six of their names on the second stone," and both were on the back of the Kohen Gadol, for they were on his shoulders.	וְהִנֵּה כִּי הִנֵּה הָאָדָם צָריךְ לְהַחֲזִיק שֶׁהוּא בְּכְחִינַת אָחוֹר, כִּי הִנֵּה אֵצֶל כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל הָיָה חֹשֶׁן וְאֵפוֹד, וְהִנֵּה בָּאֵפוֹד הָיוּ ב' אֲבָנִים וְהָיָה חָקוּק עֲלֵיהֶם שִׁרְטֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב שֵׁשָׁה מִשְּׁמוֹתָם עַל הָאֶבֶן הָאַחַת וְשֵׁשָׁה מִשְׁמוֹתָם עַל הָאֶבֶן הַשֵּנִית וּשְׁנֵיהֶם הָיוּ בַּאֲחוֹר שֶׁל כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל כִּי הָיוּ בַּכְּתַפַיִם
And the Choshen was in front of him, and it too had engraved on it the names of Bnei Yisrael, as it is written: "And Aharon shall carry the names of the Bnei Yisrael before Hashem."	ְהַחֹשֶׁן הָיָה מִלְפָנָיו וְהָיָה גַּם כֵּן חָקוּק עָלָיו שִׁבְטֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב וְנָשָׂא אַהָרֹן אֶת שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לִפְנֵי ה'.
And behold, just as by the Kohen Gadol the names of the tribes of Bnei Yisrael were engraved on the aspect of the shoulders and the back, so too, every person must hold himself in the aspect of "behind."	וְהַנֵּה כְּמוֹ שֶׁאֵצֶל כֹּהֵן נָּדוֹל הָיָה חָקוּק שְׁמוֹת שִׁבְטֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּבָחִינַת כְּתַפַיִם וְאָחוֹר כֵּן צָרִידְ כָּל הָאָדָם לְהַחָזִיק אוֹתוֹ בְּבְחִינַת אָחוֹר.
For although there is the aspect of "face"—as it is written, "May Hashem shine His face upon you," and at the giving of the Torah, "Face to face Hashem spoke with you"—and all this face [from above] was because there was a face from below, from the Jewish people,	כִּי הַגַּם שׁיֵשׁ פָּנִים, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶידּ, וּבְמַתַּן תּוֹרָה פָּנִים בְּפָנִים דִּבֶּר ה' עִמֶּכֶם, וְכָל זָה הַפָּנִים שֶׁלְמַעְלָה הָיָה לְפִי שֶׁהָיָה פָּנִים מִלְמַשָּה ,מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל

nonetheless, not everyone can reach the level of "face."

Therefore, a person must hold himself in the aspect of "back."

And this is the concept of "His left hand is under my head"—the left pushes away.	ָן זֶהוּ עִנְיָן שְׂמֹאלוֹ הַּחַת לְרֹאשִׁי – שְׂמֹאל דּוֹחֶה.
For behold, this verse, "His left hand is under my head," is written in Shir HaShirim twice: first it is written in chapter 2, "His left hand is under my head and His right hand embraces me,"	כִּי הָנֵּה פָּסוּק זֶה דְּשְׂמֹאלוֹ תַּחַת לְרֹאשִׁי כָּתוּב בְּשִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים פַּעֲמִיִם: מִקּוֹדֶם כָּתוּב בְּסִימָן ב' שְׂמֹאלוֹ תַּחַת לְרֹאשִׁי וִימִינוֹ תְחַבְּקֵנִי,
and afterward, at the end of Shir HaShirim, it says, "His left hand is under my head and His right hand embraces me."	וְאַחַר כָּךְ בְּסוֹף שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים נֶאֱמֵר שְׂמֹאלוֹ חַּחַת רֹאשִׁי וִימִינוֹ תְחַבְּקֵנִי.
Only, there at the end it is written "my head" (רֹאשִׁי) without the ', and earlier it is written "to my head" (לְרֹאשִׁי) with a lamed.	רַק דְשָׁם בַּסוֹף כָּתוּב רֹאשִׁי וּמִקוֹדֶם כָּתוּב לְרֹאשִׁי בְּלַמֶּ"ד.
And it must be understood: why is this verse written twice?	וְצָרִידְ לוֹמֵר לָמָה כָּתוּב פָּסוּק זֶה פַּעֲמַיִם.
However, because there are two levels of left and right: for there is left and right of the recipient, and there is left and right of the influencer.	אֲבָל כִּי יֵשׁ ב' בְּחִינוֹת שְׂמֹאל וִימִין כִּי יֵשׁ שְׂמֹאל וִימִין דְמְקַבֵּל וְיֵשׁ שְׂמֹאל וִימִין דְּמַשְׁפִּיעַ,
For above it is written that all is right, as it says, "Your right hand, Hashem, is glorious in strength; Your right hand, Hashem, crushes the enemy"—twice it says "right."	פִי לְמַעְלָה כָּתוּב הַכּּל יָמִין, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב יְמִינְדְּ ה' נָאָדָּרִי בַּכֹּחַ יְמִינְדָ ה' תִּרְעַץ אוֹיֵב, בֵּית פְּעָמִים יָמִין.
And the "left" of the recipient is when he humbles himself.	וָהִנֵּה שְׂמֹאל דְּמְקַבֵּל הוּא מַה שֶׁמַּשְׁפִּיל עַצְמוֹ.
For one does not stand to pray except from a state of heaviness of head—meaning, heaviness of head is submission and nullification, which must precede prayer.	פִּי אֵין עוֹמְדִים לְהַתְפַּלֵּל אֶלָּא מִתוֹךְ כֹּבֶד רֹאשׁ – שֶׁכֹבֶד רֹאשׁ הוּא הַכְנָעָה וּבִטוּל שֶׁצָּרִיךְ לִהְיוֹת קֹדֶם הַתְּפִלָּה
For prayer was established in place of sacrifices, and just as with sacrifices there was the commandment of removing the ashes, as it says, "And he shall lift out the ashes"—	כִּי תִּפִלָּה כְּנֶגֶד קָרְבָּנוֹת תִּקְנוּם, וּכְמוֹ בַּקָרְבָּן הָיְתָה – מִצְוַת תִּרוּמַת הַדָּשֶׁן כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב וְהַרִים אֶת הַדָּשֶׁן
so too in divine service it is lowliness, as in "And I am dust and ashes," and "Let my soul be like dust to all."	וּבַצְבוֹדָה הוּא שִׁפְלוּת – וְאָנֹכִי עָפָר וָאֵפֶר, וְנַפְשִׁי כֶּעָפָר לַכֹּל תִּהְיֶה.
And through what does one come to submission and lowliness? It is through "masters of accounting" (mari d'chushbana), from all the thoughts and words that are not for Hashem—	וְהַנֵּה עַל יְדֵי מָה יָבוֹא לִהְיוֹת בְּהַכְנָעָה וּשְׁפָלוּת – הוּא עַל יְדֵי מָארֵי דְּחֲשְׁבָּנָא, מִכָּל הַמַּחֲשָׁבוֹת וְהַדְּבּוּרִים אֲשֶׁר לֹא לַה' הַמָּה.
and how distant he is from Godliness. For a person should not imagine that just because he is praying, he is already good—for it is not so.	וְאֵיךְ שֶׁהוּא רָחוֹק מֵאֱלֹקוּת. כִּי אַל יְדַמֶּה הָאָדָם שֶׁבְּשֶׁהוּא מִתְפַּלֵּל הוּא טוֹב כו' כִּי אֵינָנּוּ כֵן.

And this is through contemplating the verse: "The lip of truth shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment."	וְהוּא עַל יְדֵי הִתְּבּוֹנְנוּת בְּמֵה שֶּׁכָּתוּב שְׂפַת אֱמֶת תִּכּוֹן לָעַד וְעַד אַרְגִּיעָה לְשׁוֹן שָׁקֶר.
For there is "truth," and there is "the lip of truth." For "truth" is as it says, "And the truth of Hashem is forever."	כִּי יֵשׁ אֱמֶת וְיֵשׁ שְׂפַת אֱמֶת, כִּי אֱמֶת הוּא כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב וָאֱמֶת ה' לְעוֹלָם.
For behold it is written: "For Hashem is a G-d of knowledges"—that there are two perspectives:	פִי הָנֵה כָּתוּב כִּי אֵל דַעוֹת ה', שֶׁיֵשׁ ב' דַעוֹת:
From the higher perspective downward—there is [existence]; and from the lower perspective upward—there is not, for to grant inheritance to those who love Me there is being, but before Him, all is as nothing and of no account.	כִּי מִלְמַעְלָה לְמַטָּה – יֵשׁ; וּמִלְמַטָּה לְמַעְלָה – אֵין, כִּי לְהַנְחִיל אֹהָבַי יֵשׁ, וּכֻלָּא קּמֵיהּ כְּלָא כְּוְאֵין חָשִׁיבִי.
And from below upward there is only because it was created from nothing.	וָהִנֵּה מִלְמַטָּה לְמַעְלָה – יֵשׁ, רַק שָׁנִּתְהַנָּה מֵאַיִן.
And "the truth of Hashem is forever" means that the upper knowledge be revealed below as well, that before Him all is as nothing. This is called "truth."	ָוֶאֱמֶת ה' לְעוֹלָם – הַיְנוּ שֶׁיִהְיֶה גִּלּוּי דֵּעָה עֶלְיוֹנָה לְמַטָּה גַּם כֵּן אֵיךְ דְּכֻלָּא קַמֵּיה כְּלָא חָשִׁיב – זָהוּ נִקְרָא אֱמֶת.
However, to reach this level of truth is not possible now. Therefore we request about it: "Give truth to Yaakov."	אֲבָל הָנֵּה לְבָחִינַת אֱמֶת זֶה – אִי אֶפְשָׁר לְהַגִּיעַ עַתָּה, וָלָכֵן מְבַקְּשִׁים עַל זָה תִּתַן אֱמֶת לְיַעֲקֹב.
For there is "the lip of truth." And the meaning of "lip of truth" is like a lip to a garment—so too, "lip of truth" is the nullification of something to nothing.	כִּי יֵשׁ שְׂפַת אֱמֶת, וּפִירוּשׁ שְׂפַת אֱמֶת הוּא שָּׂפָה לְבֶגֶד, בַּן גַּם כֵּן שְׂפַת אֱמֶת הוּא בִּטוּל הַיֵּשׁ לְאַיִן.
But in this life it is not yet called "truth," for truth is when there is no change at all.	שֶׁבְּחַיֵּי זוֹ – אֵינוֹ נִקְרָא אֱמֶת עֲדַיִן, כִּי אֱמֶת הוּא שֶׁלֹּא יִהְיֶה בּוֹ שִׁנּוּי כְּלָל
Therefore, when it is "the lip of truth," then "it shall be established forever."	וְעַל כֵּן כַּאֲשֶׁר הוּא שְׂפַת אֱמֶת – הִנֵּה תִּכּוֹן לָעַד.
For behold, if during prayer he has love—"And you shall love Hashem your G-d"—but after the prayer he returns to physicality, then it is not truth, and is called: "The lying tongue is but for a moment."	כִּי הָנֵּה אָם בִּשְׁעַת הַתְּפָלֶּה יֵשׁ לוֹ אַהָבָה – וְאָהַבְתָּ אֵת ה' אֱלֹקֶידְ – וְאַחַר הַתְּפִלֶּה נִמְשָׁךְ לַגַּשְׁמִיּוּת – הָרֵי אֵינוֹ אֱמֶת, וְנִקְרָא וְעַד אַרְגִיעָה לְשׁוֹן שָׁקֶר.
But "the lip of truth shall be established forever"—and this is what Rabbi Akiva said: "When you reach the pure marble stones, do not say: 'Water, water,' for it is said, 'He who speaks lies shall not stand before My eyes."	אָבָל שְׂפַת אֱמֶת תִּכּוֹן לָעַד, וְזֶהוּ שֶׁאָמַר רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא: כְּשֶׁתַּגִּיעוּ לְאַבְנֵי שַׁיֵשׁ טָהוֹר – אַל תֹאמְרוּ מִיִם מֵיִם, שָׁנָּאֱמֵר דֹבֵר שְׁקָרִים לֹא יִכּוֹן לְנָגֶד עֵינָי.

For the meaning of "water, water" is the two aspects of water: for it says, "Let there be a firmament and let it separate between the waters and the waters."	כִּי פֵירוּשׁ מֵיָם מַיָם – הוּא שֶׁיֵּשׁ ב' בְּחִינוֹת מֵיָם, כִּי כָּתוּב: יְהִי רָקִיעַ וִיהִי מַבְדִּיל בֵּין מַיִם לַמְיִם.
For there are upper waters above the firmament, which is the level of "And a river goes out of Eden to water the garden"—the level of supernal delight in G-dliness.	כִּי יֵשׁ מַיָם עֶלְיוֹנִים שָׁמַעַל לָרָקִיעַ – שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת וְנָהָר יוֹצֵא מֵעֶדֶן לְהַשְׁקוֹת אֶת הַגַּן – בְּחִינַת תַּעֲנוּג עֶלְיוֹן בָּאֱלֹקוּת.
And there are lower waters, which are the level of the source of physical flow, for water causes all kinds of pleasure to grow.	וְיֵשׁ מַיִם תַּחְתּוֹנִים – שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת מָקוֹר הַשְׁפָּעָה בַּגַשְׁמִיּוּת, כִּי מַיִם מְגַדְּלִים כָּל מִינֵי תַּעֲנוּג.
And behold: do not say "water, water"—that they are two separate aspects of water, for they are not truly separate.	– וְהָנֵה אַל תֹּאמְרוּ מֵיִם מַיִם – שֶׁהֵם ב' בְּחִינוֹת מַיִם כִּי אֵינָם נִפְרָדִים.
For although the firmament separates, nevertheless the lower waters cry: "We want to be before the King!"	כִּי הַגַּם שֶׁהָרָקִיעַ מַבְדִּיל – מָכֶּל מֶקוֹם מַיִם תַּחְתּוֹנִים בָּכִים: אַנַּן בָּעִינָן לְמֶהֵוִי קֵדָם מַלְכָּא.
Therefore this is called "he who speaks lies,"	וְלָכֵן נִקְרָא זֶה דֹבֵר שְׁקָרִים.
And behold, this must be "masters of accounting" (mārei deḥushbānā): that if during prayer he has love, but after prayer he is drawn to materiality—then he makes something and a separate thing,	וְהַנֵּה זֶה צָרִידְּ לִּהְיוֹת מָארֵי דְּחֲשְׁבָּנָא – שֶׁאָם בִּשְׁעַת הַתְּפִלָּה יֵשׁ לוֹ אַהֲבָה, וְאַחַר הַתְּפִלָּה נִמְשָׁךְ לַגַּשְׁמִיּוּת הַרֵי עוֹשֶׂה יֵשׁ וְדָבָר נִפְרָד.
and this is a sign that it is not "the lip of truth." Therefore, there must be lowliness and heaviness of head.	וְזֶהוּ סִימָן שֶׁאֵינוֹ שְׂפַת אֱמֶת. וְעַל כֵּן צָרִיךְ לִהְיוֹת שְׁפָלוּת וְכֹבֶד רֹאשׁ.
And through this: "Whoever lowers himself, Hashem raises him."	ןהָנֵה עַל יְדֵי זֶה – כָּל הַמַּשְׁפִּיל עַצְמוֹ – הַקּב"ה מַגְבִּיהוֹ.
"If you have degraded yourself—elevate yourself," for the elevation is the level of encompassing light (sovev kol almin),	אָם נִבְלַתָּ – בְּהָתְנַשֵּׂא, כִּי הָעֲלִיָּה הִיא בִּבְחִינַת סוֹבֵב כָּל עָלְמִין.
like the analogy of a circle, which has no beginning or end.	וּכְמֶשֶׁל עָגוּל – שֶׁאֵין בּוֹ מֵעוּמָה וְטוּב.
And this is "After Hashem" and afterward comes the level "you shall walk"—"going and traveling southward," from level to level.	וְזֶהוּ אֲחֲרֵי ה', וְאַחַר כָּךְּ יָבוֹא לְבָחִינַת תַּלֵכוּ – הָלוֹךְ וְנָסוֹעַ הַנֶּגְבָּה, מִדַּרְגָּא לְדַרְגָּא.
And behold, all this is in the person—and likewise above: "After Hashem you shall walk" means that the level of "you shall walk" is drawn from contemplation in "after Hashem."	וְהָנֵּה כָּל זָה הוּא בָּאָדָם, וּכְמוֹ כֵן לְמַעְלָה: אַחַרֵי ה' תַּלֵכוּ – הַיְנוּ שֶׁבְּחִינַת תַּלֵכוּ נִמְשָׁךְ מֵהָתְבּוֹנְנוּת בַּאֲחַרֵי ה'.
That all that became a source for worlds is only the level of "after Hashem," for "And Hashem sat as King forever."	שֶׁכֶּל מַה שֶׁנַּעֲשָׂה מָקוֹר לָעוֹלָמוֹת – הוּא רַק בְּחִינַת אַחֲרֵי ה', כִּי וַיֵּשֶׁב ה' מֶלֶךְ לְעוֹלָם.

Like a parable of a person sitting on a throne—he only sits with his back; so too above: "Hashem sat as King,"	ּכְּעִנְיַן מָשָׁל – אָדָם יוֹשֵב עַל הַכָּסֵא – הָנֵּה הוּא יוֹשֵב רַק בְּאַחוֹר, כֵּן גַּם כֵּן לְמַעְלָה: וַיֵּשֶׁב ה' מֶלֶךְ.
for kingship is also only a radiance, for "King" is His name—	פִּי מַלְכוּת הִיא גַּם כֵּן רַק הֶאָרָה, כִּי מֶלֶךְ שְׁמוֹ נִקְרָא,
for the essence of the King does not spread into the kingdom, only His name.	בּי אֵין עַצְמוּת הַמֶּלֶךְ מִתְפַּשֵׁט בַּמְדִינָה – רַק שְׁמוֹ.
And above this is the level of Malchus, Malchus of Atzilus.	ַוְלְמֵעְלָה – הוּא בְּחִינַת מֵלְכוּת, מֵלְכוּת דְּאָצִילוּת.
And this is the concept of "Blessed is He and His Name," and the world was created.	ַוְזֶהוּ עִנְיַן בָּרוּךְ הוּא וּשְׁמוֹ, וְהָיָה הָעוֹלָם.
For the concept of thirteen is explained in Pirkei d'Rabbi Eliezer: that they are ten utterances, included in three—Chochmah, Binah, Daas.	'שֶׁעַנְיֵן י"ג – אִיתָא בְּפִרְקֵי דְּרַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזָר – שֶׁהֵם י מַאֲמֶרוֹת וְכַלָּם נִכְלְלוּ בָּג' – בְּחָכְמָה וּבִתְבוּנָה וּבְדַעַת.
As it is written: "Hashem, with wisdom, founded the earth; established the heavens with understanding; with His knowledge, the depths were split."	כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: ה' בְּחָכְמָה יָסַד אָרֶץ, כּוֹנֵן שָׁמַיִם בִּתְבוּנָה, בְּדַעְתּוֹ תְּהוֹמוֹת נִבְקָעוּ.
And it concludes with "Blessed is His Name," for all this is only in the level of His Name alone.	וּמְסַיֵּם בְּבָרוּךְ שְׁמוֹ, כִּי כָּל זֶה הוּא רַק בִּבְחִינַת שְׁמוֹ לְבַד.
For His great Name is praised and glorified forever.	ּכִּי מְשֻׁבָּח וּמְפֹאָר עֲדֵי עַד שְׁמוֹ הַגָּדוֹל.
And this is "Blessed is He and His Name, and the world was," to contemplate how with one utterance He created the world—	וְזֶהוּ בָּרוּךְ הוּא וּשְׁמוֹ וְהָיָה הָעוֹלָם – לְהִתְבּוֹנֵן אֵיךְ כִּי בַּאֲמִירָה אַחַת בָּרָא הָעוֹלָם.
for "Behibaram" (in their creation) is by the letter hei He created them.	פִי בְּהָבָּרְאָם – בְּהֵ"א בְּרָאָם.
The letter hei is a light letter, with no substance, and easy to say.	אוֹת הֵ"א – הִיא אֶתְנון קַלִּילָא – דְּלֵית בַּה מִשְׁשָׁא, וְקַל לְאוֹמְרָה.
And the concept of saying "Blessed is" means that through contemplation this revelation should be drawn into the soul:	– וְעִנְיַן שֶׁאוֹמֵר "בָּרוּךְ" – הוּא שֶׁעַל יְדֵי הִתְבּוֹנְנוּת יוּמְשַׁךְ גִּילּוִי זָה בַּנֶּפֶשׁ:
"Blessed is He and His Name, and the world was" until "Blessed is"	בָּרוּךְ הוּא וּשְׁמוֹ – וְהָיָה הָעוֹלֶם – בָּרוּךְ הוּא – עַד בָּרוּךְ שְׁמוֹ
And all this is the level of "after Hashem," and behold, from the level of "after Hashem," from this is drawn "you shall walk," going and traveling southward—	– וְכָל זֶה הוּא בְּחִינַת אַחֲרֵי ה', וְהִנֵּה מִבְּחִינַת אַחֲרֵי ה' מָזֶּה נִמְשָׁךְ תַּלֵכוּ – הָלוֹדְּ וְנָסוֹעַ הַנֶּגְבָּה.
for "southward" is the strength of the south. And all this is left and right of the recipient.	כִּי הַנָּגְבָּה – הוּא תּוּקְפָּא דְּדָרוֹם. וְהַנֵּה כָּל זֶה הוּא שְׁמֹאל וִימִין דְּמְקַבֵּל.

And behold, afterward, "and Him you shall fear" is the left and right of the influencer. For "and Him" is the awe that extends from His Essence and Being—blessed is He—which is the supernal level of left.	וְהָנֵּה אַחַר כָּדְּ וְאֹתוֹ תִירָאוּ הוּא שְׂמֹאל וִימִין דְּמַשְׁפִּיעַ, כִּי וְאֹתוֹ הוּא יִרְאָה הַנִּמְשֶׁכֶת מֵעַצְמוּתוֹ וּמַהוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְּ הַשְׁהוּא בְּחִינַת שְׁמֹאל שֶׁלְּמֵעְלָה – שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת שְׁמֹאל שֶׁלְּמֵעְלָה
And afterward, "and His commandments you shall guard, and to His voice you shall listen, and Him you shall serve"—these are the three things upon which the world stands: Torah, service (avodah), and acts of kindness.	וְאַחַר כָּדְ וְאֶת מִצְוֹתָיו תִּשְׁמֹרוּ וּבְקֹלוֹ תִשְׁמָעוּ וְאֹתוֹ תַעֲבֹדוּ – הוּא ג' דְּבָרִים שֶׁהָעוֹלָם עוֹמֵד: תּוֹרָה, וַעֲבוֹדָה, וּגְמִילוּת חֲסָדִים
For "you shall serve Him" is service, meaning the sacrifices—and now it is prayer, for they established it in place of the continual offerings.	כִּי תַעַבְדוּהוּ הוּא עֲבוֹדָה – הוּא הַקּרְבָּנוֹת, וְעַתָּה הוּא הְפִלָּה, כְּנֶגֶד תָּמִידִין תִּקְנוּם
And "His commandments" is kindness. And "to His voice you shall listen" is Torah—the middle line.	וּמִצְוֹתָיו הוּא גְמִילוּת חֲסָדִים, וּבְקֹלוֹ תִשְׁמָעוּ הוּא תּוֹרָה – קַו הָאֶמְצָעִי
And the matter is: "His commandments you shall guard"—for in commandments it is written "which I command you," "I" being the one who is commanding.	וְהָעִנְיָן: כִּי מִצְוֹתָיו תִּשְׁמֹרוּ – כִּי בַּמִּצְוֹת כָּתוּב אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְּךָ – אָנֹכִי מִי שֶׁאָנֹכִי.
The 248 positive commandments are the 248 limbs of the King.	רַמַ"ח פָּקוּדִין – רַמַ"ח אֵיבָרִין דְּמַלְכָּא.
And yet, afterward it is written, "and to His voice you shall listen"—and "His voice" is Torah.	– וְהַנֵּה מִכָּל מָקוֹם כָּתוּב אַחַר כָּדְּ וּבְקֹלוֹ תִשְׁמָעוּ וּבְקֹלוֹ הוּא תּוֹרָה.
For mitzvos, although they are the 248 limbs of the King, they are still limbs—like, by way of analogy, external limbs.	כִּי מִצְוֹת, אַף עַל כִּי שֶׁהֵם רַמַ"ח אֵיבָרִין דְּמַלְכָּא, מִכָּל מָקוֹם הֵם אֵיבָרִים – כְּמוֹ עַל דֶּרֶךְ מָשֶׁל אֵיבָרִים .חִיצוֹנִיִּים
But Torah is from the inner limbs. And by way of analogy: voice comes from the lungs and breath of the heart—which are inner organs.	אֲבָל תּוֹרָה הִיא מֵאֵיבָרִים הַפְּנִימִיִּים. וְעַל דֶּרֶהְ מָשָׁל: קוֹל יוֹצֵא מֵרוֹאָה וְהָבֶל הַלֵּב – שָׁהֵם אֵיבָרִים פְּנִימִיִּים.
And this is "and to His voice you shall listen"—"Make your ears hear what your mouth utters."	ן ֶהוּ וּבְקֹלוֹ תִשְׁמָעוּ — הַשְׁמַע לְאָזְנֶידְ מַה שֶׁאַתָּה מוֹצֵא מָפִּידָ.
"You" is the level of "You give life to all of them."	אַתָּה – הוּא בְּחִינַת וְאַתָּה מְחַיֶּה אֶת כַּלָּם.
"You are Hashem alone"—this is what your mouth expresses.	אַתָּה ה' לְבַדֶּךְ – שֶׁהוּא מוֹצָא מִפִּיךּ.
For everyone who reads Torah—the Holy One, blessed is He, reads and studies in parallel.	ּפִי כָּל הַקּוֹרֵא בַּתּוֹרָה – הַקּב"ה קוֹרֵא וְשׁוֹנֶה כְּנָגְדּוֹ.

Therefore, "my tongue shall answer Your word"—for the Torah is "Your word," and the person is merely like one responding after the reader.	ְוָלָכֵן מַּעַן לְשׁוֹנִי אָמְרָתֶּדְּ – שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה הִיא אָמְרָתֶדּ, וְהָאָדָם הוּא רַק כְּעוֹנֶה אַחַר הַקּוֹרֵא.
And behold, "and Him you shall serve" is prayer—because one must draw down the Infinite Light.	וְהָנֵּה וְאֹתוֹ תַעַבְדוּ – הִיא מְּפָלֶּה, כִּי צָרִיךְ לְהַמְשִׁיךְ אוֹר אֵין סוֹף.
For why was the land lost? Because they did not bless on the Torah first—meaning, they did not draw down through Torah.	פִּי עַל מָה אָבְדָה הָאָרֶץ – עַל שֶׁלֹא בֵּרְכוּ בַּתּוֹרָה הְחִלָּה, פֵּירוּשׁ שֶׁלֹא הִמְשִׁיכוּ בַּתּוֹרָה.
And this is through prayer. For behold, prayer was established in place of the continual offerings.	ְהוּא עַל יְדֵי תְּפָלָה. כִּי הִנֵּה תְּפָלָה – כְּנֶגֶד תָמִידִין תִּקְנוּם
And one must ask: are not the eighteen blessings of prayer corresponding to the eighteen vertebrae of the spine?	וְצָרִיךְ לוֹמֵר: הֲלֹא ח"י בְּרָכוֹת דִּצְלוֹתָא – הֵם כְּנֶגֶד ח"י חֻלְיוֹת הַשִּׁדְרָה.
But the matter is that the eighteen vertebrae of the spine connect the intellect to the thighs.	אֲבָל הָעִנְיָן: כִּי ח"י חֻלְיוֹת הַשִּׁדְרָה מְחַבְּרוֹת מִמּוֹחִין עַד יְרַכַיִם
So too are the eighteen blessings of Shemoneh Esrei. Therefore, it contains Avos (patriarchs) and thanksgiving—which are the extension from intellect to thighs.	וְכֵן גַּם כֵּן – ח"י בָּרָכוֹת דִּשְׁמוֹנֶה עֶשְׂרֵה. וְלָכֵן יֵשׁ בָּהֶם אָבוֹת וְהוֹדָאָה – שֶׁהוּא הַמְשָׁכָה מִמּוֹחִין עַד יָרַכַיִם
But even so, prayer was established in place of the continual offerings.	אַבָל מִכָּל מָקוֹם – תְּפִלָּה כְּנָגֶד תָּמִידִין תִּקְנוּם.
For through it one first draws down into the intellect—as it is written, "My offering, My bread"—	פִּי עַל יְדֵי זֶה – מַמְשִׁיךְ הַמְשֶׁכָה בַּמּוֹחִין מִקֹּדֶם, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב אֶת קָרְבָּנִי לַחְמִי
for first it is necessary to strengthen the intellect, and then to draw from intellect to thighs.	כִּי מִקֹּדֶם צָרִיךְ לְחַזֵּק הַמּוֹחִין, וְאַחַר כָּךְ מַמְשִׁיכִין מִמּוֹחִין עַד יְרַכַיִם.
And this is: "And at night, what does the Holy One do?"—He rides upon a light cherub and floats over eighteen thousand worlds.	וְזֶהוּ: וּבְלֵילְיָא מַאי קָעָבֵיד קוּב"ה – רוֹכֵב עַל כְּרוּב קַל שָׁלוֹ, וְשָׁט בַּח"י אֶלֶף עוֹלָמוֹת.
For the root of their extension is through the eighteen blessings of prayer, so that the extension will reach also below.	פִּי ח"י אֶלֶף עוֹלָמוֹת – הָנֵּה שֹׁרֶשׁ הַמְשָׁכָה בָּהֶם הוּא עַל יְדֵי ח"י בְּרָכוֹת דְּצְלוֹתָא – בִּכְדֵי שֶׁיַגִּיעַ הַמְשָׁכָה לְמַטָּה גַּם כֵּן
And this is "at night"—for what is the significance of "at night" specifically?	?וְזֶהוּ "וּבְלֵילְיָא" – כִּי מַהוּ בְּלֵילְיָא דַּוְקָא
But the matter is that "night" is exile, which is likened to night.	אָבָל הָעִנְיָן: כִּי לַיְלָה – הוּא גָּלוּת, שֶׁנִּמְשֵׁל לְלַיְלָה.
Therefore: "and at night, what does He do?"—He rides and floats through eighteen thousand worlds.	וְלָכֵן: וּבְלֵילְיָא מַאי קָעָבֵיד – רוֹכֵב כו' וְשָׁט בַּח"י אֶלֶף עוֹלָמוֹת.

For through the eighteen blessings of prayer by day, the revelation is drawn down also into the "night"—which is exile, concealment, and hiddenness.	פָּי עַל יְדֵי ח"י בְּרָכוֹת דִּצְלוֹתָא דְּיוֹם – מַמְשִׁיכִים הַגִּילוּי לְמַטָּה גַּם כֵּן בִּבְחִינַת לַיְלָה, שֶׁהוּא גָּלוּת וָהֶסְתֵּר וְהֶעְלֵם.
And this is "and Him you shall serve," which is prayer—established in place of the offerings.	וְזֶהוּ וְאֹתוֹ תַעַבְדוּ – שֶׁהוּא תְּפִלָּה שֶׁכְּנֶגֶד קַרְבָּנוֹת תִּקְנוּם
And behold, "and to Him you shall cleave" refers to the state after prayer (nefeil asha'ar), for then is "and to Him you shall cleave."	וְהַנֵּה וּבוֹ תִדְבֶּקוּן קָאֵי עַל נְפִ"א שֶׁאַחַר הַתְּפַלֶּה – שֶׁאָז הוּא וּבוֹ תִדְבָּקוּן.
For cleaving (deveikus) is a state in which there are no changes, as it is written: "My soul cleaves after You."	פִּי דְבֵקוּת הוּא בְּחִינָה שֶׁאֵין בָּה שָׁנּוּיִים, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב דָבְקָה נַפְשִׁי אַחֲרֶיךָ.
And our Sages said: "With three expressions of affection the Holy One, blessed is He, loved Israel: in cleaving, desire, and longing"—and we learn all of them from the section of that wicked one.	וְאָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל: בָּג' לְשׁוֹנוֹת שֶׁל חִיבָּה חִיבֵּב הַקּב"ה אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל – בְּדְבֵקוּת, חֵשֶׁק, חֵפֵץ – וְכוּלָם אָנוּ לוֹמְדִים מִפֶּרָשָׁתוֹ שֶׁל אוֹתוֹ רָשָׁע.
"Cleaving": "and his soul was bound up"—for deveikus is like joining two separate things, and through this they become one.	דְבֵקוּת'' – וַתִּדְבַּק נַפְשׁוֹ – כִּי דְבֵקוּת הוּא כְּמוֹ'' שֶׁמְחַבְּרִים שְׁנֵי דְבָרִים נִפְרָדִים וְעַל יְדֵי זָה נַעֲשִׂים אֶחָד.
So too is "and to Him you shall cleave" in the state after prayer, when we say: "To You, Hashem, I lift up my soul."	ֶּכֶּךְ גַּם כֵּן וּבוֹ תִדְבָּקוּן בְּנְפִ"א – שֶׁאוֹמְרִים: אֵלֶידְ ה' נַפְשִׁי אֶשָׂא.
"In You, Hashem, I trusted"—for "I trusted" (בטחתי) is a language of reliance and cleaving.	בְּבָםְחָתִּי – כִּי בָטַחְתִּי לָשׁוֹן טוֹחָה וְדְבֵקוּת – כִּי בָטַחְתִּי לָשׁוֹן טוֹחָה וְדְבֵקוּת
And therefore: "Let not my enemies exult over me."	וְעַל כֵּן אַל יַעַלְצוּ אוֹיְבַי לִי.
For "Your right hand, Hashem, is glorious in power; Your right hand crushes the enemy."	ַבִּי יְמִינְדָּ ה' נֶאָדָּרִי בַּכֹּחַ – יְמִינְדָּ ה' תִּרְעַץ אוֹיֵב.
And behold, in this verse "After Hashem your G-d you shall walk," there are fifteen words.	וְהִנֵּה בַּפָּסוּק הַנָּה: אַחֲרֵי ה' אֱלֹקֵיכֶם תַּלֵכוּ – יֵשׁ ט"ו תַּיבִין.
And likewise, there are fifteen words in the blessing "Baruch Kevod Hashem Mimkomo," and also fifteen vavs in the paragraph of "Emes Veyatziv," and also fifteen praises in "Yishtabach."	ְרֵלֶ ט"ו תֵּיבִין בִּבְרֶכָה ''בָּרוּךְ כְּבוֹד ה' מִמְּקוֹמוֹ,'' וְגַם ט"ו וָוִין בְּאֶמֶת וְיַצִּיב, גַם ט"ו שְׁבָחִים בְּיִשְׁתַּבֵּח.
And this corresponds to the fifteen "Songs of Ascents" (Shir Hama'alos) in Tehillim.	ָןהוּא כְּנָגֶד ט"ו שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת שֶׁבִּתְהִלִּים.
And the idea is that fifteen is י״ה (Yud-Heh).	ןהָעִנְיָן כִּי ט"ו הוּא י"ה.
For behold, it is written: "Lift up your hands in holiness and bless Hashem."	פִּי הָנֵּה כָּתוּב: שְׂאוּ יְדֵיכֶם קֹדֶשׁ וּבָרְכוּ אֶת ה'.

For "your hands" are the two hands: "His left hand under my head, and His right hand embraces me."	ּכִּי יְדֵיכֶם – הֵן ב' יָדוֹת: שְׂמֹאלוֹ הַּחַת לְרֹאשִׁי – וִימִינוֹ הָּחַבְּקֵנִי.
And through this: "Lift up your hands in holiness and bless Hashem."	וְעַל יְדֵי זֶה: שְׂאוּ יְדֵיכֶם לְדֶשׁ – וּבָרְכוּ אֶת ה'.
For behold, there is "kodesh" and there is "kadosh" with a vav.	פִי הָנֵה יֵשׁ "קֹדָשׁ" וְיֵשׁ "קָדוֹשׁ" בְּוֹנָ"ו.
For "kodesh" means separate. There are two levels: Memalei Kol Almin and Soveiv Kol Almin.	פִּי קֹדֶשׁ פֵּירוּשׁוֹ מֻבְדָּל. כִּי יֵשׁ ב' מַדְרֵגוֹת: מְמַלֵּא כָּל עָלְמִין וְסוֹבֵב כָּל עָלְמִין.
For just as the soul fills the body, so too Hashem fills all worlds—this is Memalei Kol Almin.	פִּי מַה הַנְּשָׁמָה מְמַלֵּאת אֶת הַגּוּף – כָּדְ הַקּב"ה מְמַלֵּא כָּל הָעוֹלָם – הוּא בְּחִינַת מְמֵלֵא כָּל עָלְמִין.
But there is a higher level—Soveiv Kol Almin.	אָבָל יֵשׁ בְּחִינַת סוֹבֵב כָּל עָלְמִין.
And "kadosh" with a vav is the drawing down from the level of Soveiv into Memalei,	וְהִנֵּה ''קָדוֹשׁ'' בְּוֹנָ"ו – הוּא הַמְשָׁכָה מִבְּחִינַת סוֹבֵב כָּל עָלְמִין בִּמְמַלֵּא כָּל עָלְמִין.
though it is only a radiance (ha'arah).	אָבָל הִיא הַמְשָׁכָה רַק מִבְּחִינַת הֶאָרָה.
But "Lift up your hands in holiness" means to draw down the very essence of Soveiv Kol Almin—not just a radiance.	אֲבָל ''שְׂאוּ יָדֵיכֶם קֹדֶשׁ'' – הַיְנוּ לְהַמְשִׁיךּ בְּחִינַת עַצְמוּת סוֹבֵב כָּל עָלְמִין – וְלֹא רַק הָאָרָה.
And this is through "Lift up your hands," which is the level of "His left hand under my head, and His right hand embraces me."	וְזֶהוּ עַל יְדֵי "שָׂאוּ יְדֵיכֶם" – שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת שְׂמֹאלוֹ הַחַת לְרֹאשִׁי – וִימִינוֹ תְּחַבְּקֵנִי.
And behold, there is yet another vav in this verse, as it is written: "And Him you shall fear, and His commandments you shall guard," etc.	וְהָנֵּה עוֹד יֵשׁ כָּאן וָו בַּפָּסוּק, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: וְאֹתוֹ תִירָאוּ, וְאֶת מִצְוֹתָיו תִּשְׁמֹרוּ כו'.
Altogether, there are five vavs here: "And Him you shall fear," "and His commandments," "and to His voice," "and Him," "and to Him."	ּוּבְכָלֶל יֵשׁ כָּאן ה' וָוִין: וְאֹתוֹ תִירָאוּ, וְאֶת מִצְוֹתָיו, וּבְקֹלוֹ, וְאֹתוֹ, וּבוֹ
And behold, the five vavs correspond to the letters vav and hei.	וְהִנֵּה ה' וָוִין – הוּא כְּנָגֶד ו"ה.
And therefore there are five vavs, for it alludes to vav-hei.	וְלָכֵן ה' וָוִין – כִּי מְרַמֵּז עַל ו"ה.
For behold, now it is written: "For a hand is on the throne of Y-H," and our Sages said: The Name is not complete, and the Throne is not complete.	ּכִּי הָנֵּה עַכְשָׁו כָּתוּב: כִּי יָד עַל כֵּס יָ-הּ, וְאָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל: שָׁאֵין הַשֵּׁם שָׁלֵם וְאֵין הַכִּסֵא שָׁלֵם.
If so, one must say: "May His great Name be blessed"—the Name Y-H, great—meaning that Y-H will be drawn into V-H.	וְאָם כֵּן צָרִיךְ לוֹמַר: יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַכָּא מְבָרֵךְ – שֵׁם י"ה רַבָּא – שֻׁיּוּמָשֵׁךְ י"ה בַּו"ה.

And this is through Torah and mitzvos—for "mitzvah" has in it the letters vav-hei, and the letters yud-hei are hinted in "mitzvah" through the atbash cipher, for yud-hei becomes mem-tzadi.	וְהוּא עַל יְדֵי תוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹת – כִּי מִצְוָה יֵשׁ בָּהּ אוֹתִיוֹת ו"ה, וְאוֹתִיוֹת י"ה – הוּא מ"צ בְּחִילוּף א"ת ב"ש.
For yud-hei cannot come into a state of drawing down except through the transformation of letters.	כִּי י"ה אִי אֶפְשָׁר לָבוֹא בִּבְחִינַת הַמְשָׁכָה כִּי אִם עַל יְדֵי חִילוּף אוֹתִיּוֹת.
And through Torah, which is "My bread," "in My bread," and through this "holy dwells within his innards."	וְעַל יְדֵי תּוֹרָה – שֶׁהוּא לַחְמוֹ בְּלַחְמִי – וְעַל יְדֵי זֶה קדושׁ שׁוֹרֶה בְּתוֹךְ מֵעָיו.
And behold, to understand more the matter of the five vavs, behold: "And I will remember My covenant with Yaakov"—it is written "Yaakov" full with a vav.	וְהַנֵּה לְהָבִין יוֹתֵר עִנְיַן ה' וָוִין – הִנֵּה: וְזָכַרְתִּי אֶת בְּרִיתִי יַעֲקֹב – כָּתוּב "יַעֲקֹב" מֶלֵא בְּווָ"ו.
And Rashi explains there in Parshas Bechukosai: that five times "Yaakov" is written full, and corresponding to this, Eliyahu is written five times deficient of a vav—because Yaakov took the vav as collateral from Eliyahu to ensure he would come and herald the redemption of his children.	וּפֵירֵשׁ רַשִּ"י שָׁם בְּפַרְשַׁת בְּחֻקֹּתַי: שֶׁיּצְקֹב נִזְכֵּר בַּתּוֹרָה הֵי פְּעָמִים מָלֵא, וְכְנָגֶד זֶה נִזְכֵּר אֵלִיָּהוּ הֵי פְּעָמִים חָסֵר וָו – כִּי יַעֲקֹב נָטַל אֶת הַונָ"ו מִשְׁכּוֹן מֵאֵלְיָּהוּ – שֶׁיָּבוֹא וִיבַשֵּׂר גְּאֵלַת בָּנָיו.
And the matter is: it is written "And there was no man to work the soil," and it says in the Midrash on this verse (Bereishis Rabbah): "No man"—this refers to Eliyahu and to Choni HaMa'agel—"to work the soil," meaning to bring the creations to serve the Creator.	ְוְהָעִנְיֶן: כִּי כָּתוּב: וְאָדָם אַיִן לַעֲבֹד אֶת הָאֲדָמָה, וְאִיתָא בְּמִדְרָשׁ פַּרְשַׁת בְּרֵאשִׁית עַל פָּסוּק זָה: "וְאָדָם אַיִן" – כְּאֵלִיָּהוּ וּכְחוֹנִי הַמְּעַגַּל – "לַעֲבֹד אֶת הָאֲדָמָה" – לָעַבֵּד אֶת הַבְּּרִיּוֹת לַהַקּב"ה.
And the idea is: "These are the generations of the heavens and the earth in their creation"—it is written "generations" (תולדות) full.	וְהָעָנְיָן: כִּי הִנֵּה: אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדוֹת הַשָּׁמֵיִם וְהָאָרֶץ בְּהַבָּּרְאָם – כָּתוּב "תּוֹלְדוֹת" מָלֵא.
For all other times "generations" is written deficient, except for "These are the generations of the heavens," and "These are the generations of Peretz."	כִּי כָּל ''תּוֹלְדוֹת'' שֶׁבַּמִּקְרָא – חָסֵר, לְבַד מִן ''אֵלֶה ''.תּוֹלְדוֹת הַשְּׁמִיִם,'' וְ''אֵלֶה תּוֹלְדוֹת כָּרָץ
And the matter is: for behold, vav is the drawing down of holiness into the six middos (attributes), but there is a higher vav as well.	ְוָהָעִנְיָן: כִּי הָנֵּה וָו הוּא הַמְשֶׁכָה דְּקָדוֹשׁ כְּו' מִדּוֹת, אֲבָל יֵשׁ עוֹד וָו גָּבוֹהַ יוֹתֵר.
And behold, "These are the generations of the heavens"—it is written with full spelling because the world was created in fullness, with a generous eye; only afterward did it become corrupted.	וְהָנֵּה "אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדוֹת הַשָּׁמַיִם" – "תוֹלְדוֹת" מֶלֵא – כִּי הָעוֹלָם בְּמִלּוּאוֹ נִבְרָא בְּעַיִן יָפָה, רַק אַחַר כָּךְ נִתְקַלְקְלוּ

But "These are the generations of Peretz" is also written full, because from Peretz comes Mashiach—and this refers to the future.	אֲבָל "וְאֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדוֹת פֶּרֶץ" – מָלֵא, כִּי מִפֶּרֶץ יוֹצֵא מָשִׁיחַ, וְקָאֵי עַל לְעָתִיד לָבוֹא.
For the king breaks through a fence to make for himself a path—this is the drawing down and revelation of G-dliness below.	כִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ פּוֹרֵץ גָּדֶר לַעֲשׂוֹת לוֹ דֶרֶךְ – שֶׁהוּא לְהִיוֹת הַמְשָׁכָה וְגִילּוִּי אֱלֹקוּת לְמַטָּה.
Therefore, "תולדות" is written full with two vavs.	וָלָכֵן "תּוֹלְדוֹת" זֶה מֶלֵא בִּשְׁנֵי וָוִין.
And behold, in the future it will be revealed—and now it must be drawn down,	וְהַנֵּה לְעָתִיד לָבוֹא יִהְיֶה בְּגִילּוּי, וְעַכְשָׁיו צָרִיהְ לְהַמְשִׁיךְ זָה.
and that is through the six words of the unification of Krias Shema and through 248 words—through this these two vavs are drawn down.	ןהוא עַל יְדֵי שֵׁית תֵּיבִין דִּיְחוּדָא דִּקְרִיאַת שְׁמַע, וְעַל יְדֵי שס"מ – שֶׁעַל יְדֵי זֶה נִמְשֶׁךְּ שְׁנֵי וָוִין אֵלוּ.
And this is: "After Hashem your G-d you shall walk." Is it possible to walk after the Holy One? Rather:	וְזָהוּ: אַחֲרֵי ה' אֱלֹקֵיכֶם תַּלֵכוּ – וְכִי אֶפְשֶׁר לָלֶכֶת אַחַר הַקּב"ה? אֶלָּא:
"Just as I did not engage except in planting, so you shall not engage except in planting."	מָה אֲנִי לֹא נִתְעַסַקְתִּי אֶלָּא בְּמַטָּע – אַף אַתֶּם לֹא תִּתְעַסְקוּ אֶלָּא בְּמַטָּע.
For the explanation of planting indicates revelation of G-dliness—	פִי פֵירוּשׁ נְטִיעָה מוֹרֶה עַל גִּילוּי אֱלֹקוּת.
as it is written by Avraham: "And he planted an eishel in Be'er Sheva." And what is written there? "And he called there in the name of Hashem, G-d of the world."	וּכְמוֹ בָּאַבְרָהָם כָּתוּב: וַיִּטַע אֵשֶׁל בְּרָאֵר שֶׁבַע. וּמַה כָּתוּב שָׁם? – וַיִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם ה' אֵ-ל עוֹלָם.
And this is like the beginning of creation: the six days of creation were only in planting, which is revelation of G-dliness.	וְזֶהוּ כְּמוֹ שֶׁמְּתְחַלֵּת בְּרִיָּתוֹ שִׁ"ע לֹא נִתְעַסְקוּ אֶלָּא בְּמַטָּע – שָׁהוּא גִּילוּי אֱלֹקוּת.
For the creation of the six days was concealment, but afterward "And Hashem G-d planted a garden in Eden from the beginning"—	ּכִּי בְּרִיֶּתוֹ דְשִׁ"ע הוּא הֶעְלֵם, אֲבָל אַחַר כָּדְ: וַיִּטַע ה' אֱלֹקִים גַּן בְּעֵדָן מִקֶּדֶם.
He drew down Garden, Eden, and "from the beginning." And yet, you shall engage only in planting—to draw down the aspect of Eden and Beginning into the Garden.	הֶבֵי הָמְשִׁיךְ "צַּוָ" וְ"צֵדָן" וְ"קֶדֶם." וְעִם כָּל זֹאת לֹא תִּתְצַסְקוּ אֶלָּא בְּמַטָּע – לְהַמְשִׁיךְ בְּחִינַת "וְעֵדֶן" וְ"קָדֶם" בְּתוֹךְ הַגַּן.
And in Torah it is written: "And chochmah and binah He planted within us."	ּוּבַתּוֹרָה כָּתוּב: וְחָכְמָה וּבִינָה נָטֵע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ.
And behold, vav with its full spelling is with an alef—this is the thirteen attributes of mercy that shine in the month of Elul.	וְהַנֵּה וָו עִם הַמָּלוּי – הוּא עִם א' – וְהוּא י"ג מִדּוֹת הָרַחֲמִים שֶׁמֵּאִירוֹת בְּחֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל.

For about Elul it is said: "Who grazes among the roses," just as a rose has thirteen petals and includes red and white, etc.	כִּי עַל אֱלוּל נֶאֱמַר: "הָרוֹעֶה בַּשׁוֹשַׁנִּים" – מַה שׁוֹשַׁנָּה אִית בָּה תְּלֵיסַר עֲלִין, וְאִית בָּה סוּמֶק וַחִיוַור כו'.
And behold, since we are interpreting this whole verse about the month—there is a need to interpret the entire verse according to the month of Elul.	וְהָנֵּה מֵאַחַר שֶׁמְּפָּרְשִׁים זֶה עַל חֹדֶשׁ – צָרִידְּ לְיֵשֵׁב כָּל פָּסוּק זָה עַל חֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל.
That just as in the individual there is "After Hashem you shall walk, and Him you shall fear, and His commandments," etc.—	שֶׁכְּמוֹ שֶׁבַּפְּרָט יֵשׁ זֶה בְּכָל יָוֹם: "אַחֲרֵי ה' תֵּלֵכוּ, וְאֹתוֹ – 'תִירָאוּ, וְאֶת מִצְוֹתָיו'' כו
so too, in the general, all of this is in the month of Elul.	בֵן גַם בַּכְּלָל יֵשׁ כָּל זָה בַּחֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל.
And "After Hashem you shall walk" refers to the month of Elul, as it is written: "After Hashem they shall walk, like a lion He shall roar," which refers to Elul—	וְהוּא: כִּי ''אַחֲרֵי ה' תַּלֵכוּ'' – הוּא בַּחֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל, כִּי כָתוּב: ''אַחֲרֵי ה' זֵלְכוּ כַּאַרְזֵה יִשְׁאָג'' – שֶׁקַּאי עַל – אֱלוּל
and this is left and right of the recipient.	וָהוּא שְׂמֹאל וִימִין דְּמָקַבֵּל.
And behold, "And Him you shall fear" refers to the Days of Awe, which are the attribute of fear—the level of left that descends from above.	וְהָנֵּה ''וְאֹתוֹ תִירָאוּ'' – הוּא יָמִים נוֹרָאִים – שֶׁהֵם מָדַּת יִרְאָה – בְּחִינַת שְׂמֹאל הַנִּמְשֶׁכֶת מִלְּמַעְלָה.
For from "Awesome" (Nora) comes "awe" (yirah).	ייָרָאָה (מְיִּנוֹרָא' נִמְשֶׁכֶת ייִרְאָה."
And this is "His left hand is under my head and His right hand embraces me"—referring to left and right of the recipient.	וְזֶהוּ: "שְׂמֹאלוֹ תַּחַת לְרֹאשִׁי, וִימִינוֹ תְּחַבְּקֵנִי" – קַאי עַל שְׂמֹאל וִימִין דְּמְקַבֵּל.
And the second verse: "His left hand is under my head and His right hand embraces me"—refers to left and right of the influencer.	– וּפָסוּק שֵׁנִי: "שְׂמֹאלוֹ תַּחַת רֹאשִׁי, וִימִינוֹ תְּחַבְּקֵנִי" קאי עַל שְׁמֹאל וִימִין דְּמַשְׁפִּיעַ.
And therefore, in Shir HaShirim it is first written "His left hand under <i>to</i> my head" with a lamed—because "to my head" means beneath my head, not my actual head.	ְוְלָכֵן בְּפַעֵם רָאשׁוֹנָה כָּתוּב: "שְׂמֹאלוֹ הַחַת לְרֹאשִׁי" – בְּלַמֶּ"ד – כִּי "לְרֹאשִׁי" מַשְׁמָע תַּחַת הָרֹאשׁ, וְלֹא "."רֹאשִׁי
For there are Chabad and Chagat, and "to my head" refers only to Chagat, not to Chabad—and all this is through the left of the recipient.	כִּי יֵשׁ חַבַּ"ד חַגַּ"ת, וְהִנֵּה "לְרֹאשִׁי" – הוּא רַק בְּחִינַת חַגַּ"ת וְלֹא חַבַּ"ד, וְכָל זָה הוּא עַל יְדֵי שְׂמֹאל דְּמְקַבֵּל.
But "His left hand under <i>my</i> head" is the level of the left of the influencer, which is awe that is drawn down on Rosh Hashanah—and through this, it becomes "under my head," which is the raising of the head and intellect, the level of Chabad.	ְאָבָל ''שְׂמֹאלוֹ תַּחַת רֹאשִׁי'' – שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת שְׂמֹאלוֹ – שְׁמֹאל דְּמַשְׁפִּיעַ – שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת יְרְאָה הַנִּמְשֶׁכֶּת בְּרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה, וְעַל יְדֵי זֶה נַעֲשֶׂה ''תַּחַת רֹאשִׁי'' – שֶׁהוּא נְשִׂיאַת רֹאשׁ וּמוֹחִין – בְּחִינַת חַבַּ"ד.

And this is: "His left hand is under my head"—this is Rosh Hashanah.	ָן זֶהוּ שְׂמֹאלוֹ הַּחַת רֹאשִׁי – שֶׁהוּא רֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה.
And behold: "And His commandments you shall guard, and to His voice you shall listen"—behold, "to His voice" is the voice of the shofar from above, as it is written: "And Hashem Elokim shall sound the shofar."	ְוְהָנֵה: ''וְאֶת מִצְוֹתָיו תִּשְׁמֹרוּ, וּבְקֹלוֹ תִשְׁמָעוּ'' – הָנֵּה ''בְּקלוֹ'' הוּא קוֹל שׁוֹפָר שֶׁלְמֵעְלָה, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: וַה' אֱלֹקִים בַּשׁוֹפָר יִתְקָע.
And therefore we bless "to hear the voice of the shofar," for one needs only to <i>hear</i> the voice of the shofar—	וְלָכֵן מְבָרְכִים: "לִשְׁמֹעַ בְּקוֹל שׁוֹפָר" – שֶׁצָּרִידְ רַק לִשְׁמֹעַ בְּקוֹל שׁוֹפָר,
for the shofar is from above.	פִּי הַשׁוֹפָר הוּא מִלְּמַעְלָה.
And behold, "and Him you shall serve" is the Ten Days of Repentance (Aseres Yemei Teshuvah).	ָןהָנֵה: "וְאֹתוֹ תַעַבְדוּ" – הוּא עֲשֶׂרֶת יְמֵי הְּשׁוּבָה.
For behold, it is said: "Seek Hashem when He is found"—this refers to the Ten Days of Repentance.	בִּי הָנֵה דָּךְשׁוּ ה' בְּהָמָּצְאוֹ – אֵלוּ עֲשֶׂרֶת יְמֵי תְּשׁוּבָה.
And the Gemara asks: But it is written "in all [times] that we call to Him"? And it answers: here it refers to the individual, there to the community.	ְוֹהְקְשׁוּ בַּגְּמֶרָא: וְהָא כְּתִיב: "בְּכָל קָרְאֵנוּ אֵלָיו"? וְתִירְצוּ: כָּאן לְיָחִיד, כָּאן לְצִבּוּר.
Nevertheless, the community is also better during the Ten Days of Repentance—	וְהָנֵה מִכָּל מָקוֹם צִבּוּר הוּא גַּם כֵּן בַּעֲשֶׂרֶת יְמֵי תְּשׁוּבָה טוֹב יוֹתֵר,
for "seek" is in plural form. And even though the community is [always] included in "in all [times] we call to Him," still, during the Ten Days it is better—	כִּי "דְּרְשׁוּ" לָשׁוֹן רַבִּים, וְהַגַּם שֶׁצִּבּוּר הוּא בְּ"בְּכָל קָרְאֵנוּ אֵלָיו" – מִכָּל מָקוֹם בַּעֲשֶׂרֶת יָמִים טוֹב יוֹתֵר.
for it says "when He is found"—only one must search and find.	פִי "בְּהָמֶּצְאוֹ" כְּתוּב – רַק שֶׁצָּרִיךְ לְחַפֵּשׁ וּלְמָצֹא.
For although on Rosh Hashanah it is a level of awe that is drawn from above—and it is the level of left, which is concealment and hiddenness—	כִּי הַגַּם שֶׁבְּרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה – הוּא בְּחִינַת יִרְאָה שֶׁנְּמְשֶׁכֶת מִלְּמֵעְלָה, וְהוּא בְּחִינַת שְׂמֹאל – שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת הֶסְתֵּר – וְהָעְלֵם
still, it is like the parable of a father who hides himself from his son—not with the intention of true concealment, but rather so that the son should seek him.	הָנֵּה מִכָּל מָקוֹם – הוּא כְּמָשֶׁל אָב – הָסְתִּיר עַצְמוֹ מִבְּנוֹ – שֶׁאֵין הַכַּוָּנָה הֶסְתֵּר אֲמִיתִי, רַק שֶׁהַבֵּן יְחַפֵּשׂ אוֹתוֹ
And this is "and Him you shall serve."	ין אָתוֹ תַעַבְדוּ."
And behold, afterward on Yom Kippur: "and to Him you shall cleave"—for what is in the individual every day as nefilas apayim,	וְהַנֵּה אַחַר כָּךְ – בְּיוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים: "וּבוֹ תִדְבָּקוּן" – כִּי מַה שֶׁבַּפְּרָט בְּכָל יוֹם – הוּא נְפִילַת אַפַּיִם כו',
behold, in the general it is the Ne'ilah of Yom Kippur—then is "and to Him you shall cleave."	הָנֵּה בַּכְּלָלוּת – הוּא נְעִילָה דִּיוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים – שֶׁאָז הוּא "בוֹ תִדְבָּקוּן."

And then: "Your right hand, Hashem, is glorious in strength; "וְאָדָרִי בַּכֹּחַ, יְמִינְךָ ה' תִּרְעֵץ אוֹיֵב"
Your right hand, Hashem, crushes the enemy," etc.

NOTE Summary

He explains that although revelation ("face") is possible—e.g., face-to-face communication at Sinai—this requires our own inner "face." Lacking that, one must begin with **submission (achor)**. The phrase "קראשִׁר" (His left hand under my head) is presented as symbolic of this humble stance, which leads eventually to Divine embrace.

The discourse proceeds to contrast two kinds of **left and right**: those of the **recipient** (the person) and of the **influencer** (Hashem). Left denotes awe and contraction; right denotes love and expansion. Genuine **submission** and **lowliness** are achieved through introspection, recognizing one's distance from Hashem—not by assuming that davening alone makes one righteous. One must avoid superficiality in avodah, seeking "שְׁפַּת מְּבֶּת" (a lip of **truth**) that lasts "לָעַד" rather than temporary inspiration.

The six imperatives then align with the calendar journey of Elul through Yom Kippur.

- "אַחֲבִי ה' הֵּלֵכוּ" = the start of Elul: going after Hashem through humility and planting (spreading G-dliness)
- "וְאַתוֹ חִירָאוּ" = Days of Awe: awe that descends from above
- "ואת מצותיו השמרו" = acts of kindness
- "וְבַקְלוֹ תִשְׁמעוּ" = Torah, the inner voice
- "וְאֹתוֹ תעבדו" = Aseres Yemei Teshuvah: serving through tefillah
- "ובו תדבקון" = Yom Kippur's Ne'ilah: the culmination of cleaving

The maamar explores the mystical idea that mitzvos contain the letters ז"ה (vav-hei), while the hidden י"ה (yud-hei) is embedded via the atbash transformation in the letters מ"צ of "mitzvah." The revelation of ה-י into ה-, representing the unification of Hashem's name, is facilitated by mitzvos and Torah—drawing G-dliness into the world

The symbolism of the **five vavs** in the verse is linked to the **completion of Hashem's name**, representing spiritual wholeness. Similarly, the fullness of the word "חולדות" (generations) with two vavs in select verses signifies a state of spiritual completeness—like in "חולדות פרץ," which alludes to the birth of Mashiach. The Tzemach Tzedek ties this to the **rectification of creation**, drawing a parallel between the initial perfection of the world and its ultimate redemption.

He concludes by explaining the dual appearances of "שָׁמֹאלוֹ חַחַת רֹאשִׁי"—the first with a lamed ("לְרֹאשִׁי"), indicating partial connection (Chagat), and the second without, indicating full cognitive elevation (Chabad). The former is initiated by the recipient's humility; the latter by Hashem's giving.

Practical Takeaway

The path to cleaving to Hashem is not a single moment of inspiration but a **structured ascent**—from humility to awe, from mitzvah to Torah, from service to oneness. The month of **Elul is our opportunity to begin this process**: to go "after Hashem" by emulating His traits, engaging in inward refinement, and preparing ourselves for the awe of Rosh Hashanah and the intimacy of Yom Kippur. Our avodah draws G-d's essence downward—not just light or revelation, but **the King Himself**.

Chassidic Story

The Tzemach Tzedek was once approached by a chossid during Elul who confessed with great sorrow that he felt no awe or trembling as he once did. The Rebbe asked him: "When you daven, what kavanos do you have during the brachah 'המלך הקדוש' (the holy King)?"

The man stammered, "I try to picture Hashem as a majestic king enthroned above."

The Tzemach Tzedek replied, "That's the problem. You placed Him above—and left Him there. In Elul, the King is in the field. Bring Him **down**, let Him walk beside you. That's where awe begins."

Source: Adapted from *Sefer HaSichos Tzemach Tzedek*, and oral tradition.

END NOTE